



CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY LAUNCHES CALIFORNIA COVID DIARIES

Community History Project Documents Californians' Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

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[Sacramento, Calif.] Californians can share the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on their lives through a new community-based archive sponsored by the California State Library and public libraries across the state. The aim of [California COVID Diaries](#) is to collect, preserve and make available to the public an archive of materials created by Californians, documenting their personal experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every part of our lives – from how we work and educate our children to how we shop for groceries,” said California First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom. “Even in this time of crisis, we’ve seen countless acts of bravery and kindness from Californians across the state. Sharing these stories through *California COVID Diaries* will help create a sense of shared history, bringing communities together and building our resilience in a time of great need.”

All Californians are welcome to submit typed or handwritten journals, letters, e-mail narratives and blog posts; photographs, videos and audio recordings; written or recorded interviews with family or friends; artwork and drawings; and other storytelling methods. The State Library is also working with local public libraries that have created their own COVID-related archives to include their communities’ submissions in the statewide collection.

“Community-based archives like this empower marginalized community members to share perspectives that may not otherwise be recorded,” said Greg Lucas, California State Librarian. “One hundred years from now, our understanding of the COVID-19 pandemic will be shaped by the stories that we collect and preserve today. This project will help ensure that the historical record is inclusive of every Californian’s voice.”

Submissions can take virtually any format, analog or digital, as long as they are a personal documentation, observation or reflection on the impact of COVID-19. Those interested in

contributing to *California COVID Diaries* can do so by going to <https://covididiaries.library.ca.gov/>.

For more information, please e-mail covididiaries@library.ca.gov.

END OF PRESS RELEASE

About the State Library: Founded in 1850, the California State Library has an extensive collection of documents from and about the state's rich history, ranging from books, maps, miners' diaries, newspapers, and periodicals to photographs, paintings and posters. The State Library also holds federal and state publications, is home to the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library and the Braille and Talking Book Library, and serves as the lead state agency for library-related services throughout California. [State Library website](#)